



## Office of Mayor Miro Weinberger

Directors and Managers of Burlington Skilled Nursing Facilities,

We have lost too many older Vermonters during this pandemic, and I am gravely concerned about unvaccinated care providers working in our nursing homes.

Last week I convened a special, urgent meeting of Burlington's Senior Care Providers to discuss my deep concern that not all employees in these vulnerable facilities are vaccinated. I heard some positive news about efforts within these facilities to increase staff vaccination rates, and while Vermont facilities are doing better than many others around the country, even a single unvaccinated employee can create serious risks for elderly residents.

The Covid-vaccines are effective at preventing serious illness, and by embracing them at an outstanding country-leading rate, Vermonters have made this region far safer than it was just a few short months ago. Nonetheless, the material increase in Covid-related hospitalizations in the past week has made it clear that, despite our very high rate of vaccinations, the contagiousness of the Delta-variant means that to bring this pandemic to an end, all organizations must do what they can with the tools they have to bring our vaccination rates as high as possible.

**As a leader of one of these organizations in the City of Burlington, I urge you to require vaccinations for all employees.** I support the efforts of the UVM Health Network to mandate vaccinations for its employees, and welcomed the announcement yesterday by Governor Scott that employees in state-run vulnerable congregate housing and patient care settings will be required to be vaccinated.

For our part, I met twice with the City's union leaders last week, presented them with a draft vaccination policy, and intend to finalize, in the coming days, a policy that will require City staff to either be fully vaccinated by the end of September or submit to regular Covid testing.

I will continue to work with state regulators and the Vermont Department of Health to see that this issue is quickly resolved.

Sincerely,

Miro Weinberger  
Mayor